



Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Honor the Dream Food Drive



Pet of the Week: Luna



Spirit Communications Park

# City Connection



## “JUSTICE FOR ALL” INITIATIVE

On December 4, 2014 Mayor Steve Benjamin was joined by Columbia Police Chief “Skip” Holbrook, members of Council and leaders from across the community to announce his major new “Justice for All” public safety initiative.

“We are committed to building a world class Police Department and in order to do this we must commit to strengthening the foundation of trust and accountability that exists between our communities and our law enforcement agencies,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This is about more than public safety. This is about justice.”

Comprehensive in its approach, the Justice for All initiative focuses on training, diversity, accountability and community Engagement through a series of new and expanded policies which include:

- Providing new and ongoing cultural sensitivity, conflict resolution and de-escalation training.
- Appointing minority community representation on CPD’s police hiring board.
- Establishing a citywide Human Rights Commission.
- Appointing civilian representation to CPD’s Internal Affairs Review Board.
- Publicly publishing an Annual Internal Affairs Report.
- Recording all violent crime suspect interviews.
- Organizing ongoing listening sessions in communities across Columbia.
- Providing body cameras to all uniformed personnel.

For more information, contact Michael Wukela at 803-413-5052.- [Download Justice For All Initiative Outline](#)



We Are Columbia



# City Talk

**Tune in to City Talk today on WGCV 620 AM  
from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. to hear:**



**5:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.**

**Guest:** Shireese Bell, Sr. Public Information/Community Relations Specialist

**Topic:** MLK Food Drive

**5:20 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.**

**Guest:** Ron King, Program Specialist

**Topic:** Financial Education Workshop

**5:40 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Guest:** Sgt. Darring Hicks, CPD

**Topic:** Holiday Shopping Safety

**For more information about today's topics, contact the  
Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020.**

# The Week Ahead

## ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HONOR THE DREAM FOOD DRIVE

Please join the City of Columbia and Richland School District One, as we help fight hunger in the Greater Columbia area. All food collected will benefit the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Listed are some requested items:

- canned fruit and vegetables
- dry goods
- oatmeal and other cereals
- pork and beans
- soup
- crackers
- canned meats
- peanut butter

Donations will be collected during normal business hours at most City Parks, City Hall, Washington Square, James E. Clyburn Golf Center, Columbia Tennis Center, City Human Resources, Public Works, Police Headquarters, Fire Department Headquarters, Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, Columbia Art Center and Main Street Ice. **The food drive ends Friday, January 2, 2015.**

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803.545.3100.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive Flyer - [Download PDF](#)

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## SPIRIT COMMUNICATIONS PARK COMING TO DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA

The City of Columbia and Columbia Professional Baseball announced on December 3, 2014 that they have reached an agreement with Spirit Communications to name the new, state-of-the-art multi-use sports and entertainment venue at Columbia Common in downtown Columbia. The venue will be known as “Spirit Communications Park.”



“Spirit Communications is a successful, home-grown Columbia business that, along with its member companies, has done so much for South Carolina,” said Mayor Steve Benjamin. “They are helping position Columbia as a true center of global innovation and I can’t think of a better partner for our new community venue.”

For more information visit [www.ColumbiaProBall.com](http://www.ColumbiaProBall.com) or [www.SpiritCommunicationsPark.com](http://www.SpiritCommunicationsPark.com).



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD START FRESH FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The City of Columbia Community Development will hold a Financial Education Workshop on Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 9-11 a.m. The workshop will focus on the importance of banking, budgeting, saving and building your credit.



For more information or to register, call 803.545.0280 or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

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## REGISTRATION PERIOD OPEN FOR MEN'S ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the Men's Adult Basketball League. Men ages 18 and older can participate. The fee to participate is \$300 per team.

The last day to register is January 1, 2015. The Men's Basketball League season begins Sunday, January 25, 2015.



To download a registration form, visit [Parks and Recreation's Athletics page online](#) and click the "Adult Registration Form" link.

Registration forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. Forms must be returned to the administration office.

For more information, please contact Corinn Taylor at 803-545-3109 or [cetaylor@columbiasc.net](mailto:cetaylor@columbiasc.net).



## CITY OF COLUMBIA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE MLK DREAM KEEPER SCHOLARSHIP

The City of Columbia is accepting nominations for the 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards. The Dream Keeper Award recognizes exemplary displays of committed service to the tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The ideals of social responsibility, political empowerment, diversity, racial harmony, nonviolence, and unselfish service must be demonstrated voluntarily by the nominee in support of his or her community and fellow citizens. The nominee must be age 18 or younger and enrolled in school with a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Winners will be announced at the City of Columbia's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 19, 2015, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street. Nominees must attend the celebration.

Applications are available online for download or at any community center.

Applications must be returned in person or by mail to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. **Applications must be postmarked by Friday, January 2, 2015.**

For more information, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net), or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

MLK Dream Keeper Scholarship Application – [Download PDF](#)

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### PET OF THE WEEK: LUNA

Luna is a nine-month-old brown and white Tennessee Brindle. She is very loyal and in need of a loving home. Luna is spayed and microchipped. Visit her today to see if she's the pet for you!



Visit Luna and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/ animal-services](http://www.columbiasc.net/animal-services) or call 803-776-PETS for more information

## ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCIES FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on a variety of boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions that currently have vacancies.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes:**

Seeking one (1) Landscape or Urban Planner.

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes. Applicant being sought must meet the following criteria- have expertise in landscape or urban planning. The purpose of the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes is to hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made the zoning administrator or the Consolidated Review Committee in the enforcement of the code when the property is governed by a form based code. Term – 3 years.

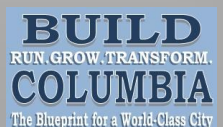
### **Planning Commission:**

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

The purpose of this commission is to develop and maintain a continuing planning program which will benefit City of Columbia residents; to provide a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and address local development issues and opportunities; to foster, develop and review policies, plans and priorities in order to insure orderly growth, development, conservation and preservation; to furnish technical assistance to city government and its agents; and to review and coordinate federal, state and local programs that have an impact on the city. The Commission also advises City Council on annexations, zoning changes and approves subdivision plats/large development plans. Term – 3 years. For more information [check here](#).

**Deadline – Applications are due no later than December 11, 2014, 5 p.m.**

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to [cflucius@columbiasc.net](mailto:cflucius@columbiasc.net). You can also visit our website at <https://columbiasc.gov/boards-commissions> to download an application.



# Make Your Hometown Your Destination This Weekend

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

## A DEVINE NIGHT OUT



More than 50 stores and restaurants on Devine Street in Columbia will welcome guests for an evening of shopping, socializing and festive cheer. The celebrations continues with a fabulous FREE After Party at Henry's (2865 Devine Street), featuring live entertainment and an assortment of complimentary food beverages. Enjoy shopping and dining on the most fabulous mile of locally-owned businesses in Columbia.

**Location:** Devine St – Boutique Shopping Corridor

**Time:** 5 – 8 p.m; After Party: 8-10 p.m.

**Admission:** Free (vendor prices vary)

**Phone:** 803-608-6161

**Website:** <http://devinestreetcolumbiasc.com/home/>

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## SNOWVILLE

Strap on some ice skates and pack your mittens for a frosty, fun-filled trip to Snowville. Our most popular seasonal exhibit is cooler than ever! Crawl through an ice tunnel, climb a snow-capped mountain, sled down a snowy hill, or visit the Penguin Observation Station. It's all in Snowville!



**Location:** EdVenture Children's Museum – 211

**Gervais St.**

**Time:** 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Admission:** Children and Adults: \$11.50 Seniors (62+): \$10.50 Military (with ID): \$10.50 Members:

**Free Children under one: Free**

**Phone:** 803-400-1166

**Website:** <http://www.edventure.org/>



We Are Columbia



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**

## **GREMLINS**



A boy inadvertently breaks three important rules concerning his new pet and unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters on a small town.

**Location: The Nickelodeon – 1607 Main St.**

**Time: 11 p.m.**

**Admission: \$10**

**Phone: 803-254-8234**

**Website: <http://nickelodeon.org/films/gremlins/>**

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## **SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN**



Get into the holiday spirit with this family friendly event held by Columbia City Ballet!

**Location: Koger Center – 1051 Greene St.**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 p.m.**

**Cost: Prices vary**

**Phone: 803-799-7605**

**Website: <http://www.koger.sc.edu/>**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

## **CITY BALLET'S NUTCRACKER**



Nutcracker has the distinction of being the Koger Center's longest consecutively running annual arts event. With seven snow-filled performances, including four matinees, Nutcracker is designed to accommodate the entire family's holiday schedule.

**Location: Koger Center – 1051 Greene St.**

**Time: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

**Cost: Prices vary**

**Phone: 803-799-7605**

**Website: <http://columbiacityballet.com/> or <http://www.koger.sc.edu/>**

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## **COTTON MILL EXCHANGE**



State Museum members will receive 20% OFF purchases in the Cotton Mill Exchange on these special days! Just in time for the holiday season!

**Location: 301 Gervais St.**

**Time: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Admission: Free (store prices vary)**

**Phone: 803-898-4967**

**Website: <http://scmuseum.org/shop/>**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

## **NUTCRACKER TEAS**



The special events will be in Koger Center's "ballroom" and will feature a sit-down tea, cakes, cookies and lots of surprises. Learn the real story of the Nutcracker as you meet Clara, her Nutcracker Prince, and the Sugar Plum Fairy and other company dancers.

**Location: Koger Center- 1051 Greene St.**

**Time: 1:30 p.m.**

**Admission: \$25**

**Phone: 803-799-7605**

**Website: <http://www.koger.sc.edu/>**

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## **CRAFTY FEAST**



The popular holiday offering from last season returns. You'll be entranced as five actors perform all the characters of Charles Dickens' classic story and create a live musical score on stage in a re-imagined production.

**Location: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
- 1101 Lincoln St.**

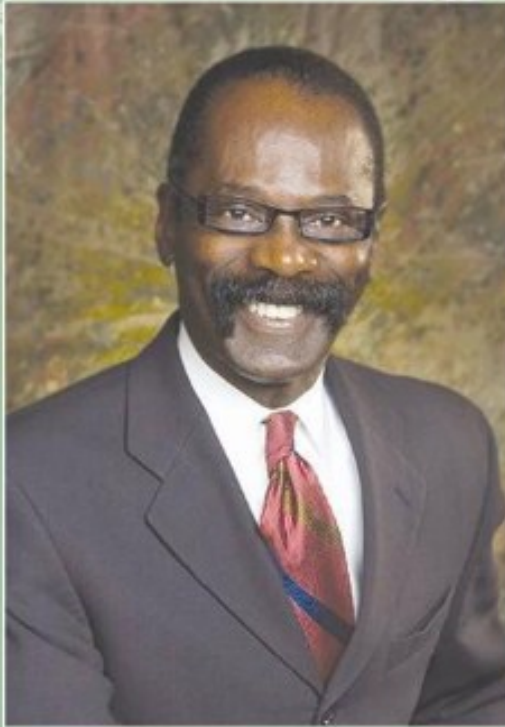
**Time: 12 - 6 p.m.**

**Admission: \$2 general admission, free for kids 10 and under**

**Phone: 803-348-8861**

**Website: <http://craftyfeast.com/>**

*'tis the season*  
**TO CELEBRATE**



*Join Councilman Sam Davis  
for a Holiday Reception*

*Monday, December 8  
from 5 - 8 p.m.*

*Eau Claire Print Building  
3907 Ensor Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29203*

*For more information, please call 803-545-3061.*



# Financial Education Workshop



"BANK ON"  
COLUMBIA



We Are Columbia

***YOU'RE INVITED!***

**MANAGE YOUR MONEY - MANAGE YOUR LIFE**

## City of Columbia Community Development **Start Fresh!**

### Financial Education Workshops

Having trouble managing your budget or  
paying down debt?

Let us help you take control!

Understand the importance of :

- **Banking**
- **Budgeting**
- **Saving**
- **Building your Credit**



The workshop will be held 9-11 a.m. at 1225 Lady Street on  
**Saturday, December 13**

For more information or to register, call 803-545-0280 or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).



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**BUILD**  
RUN. GROW. TRANSFORM.  
**COLUMBIA**  
The Blueprint for a World-Class City



# *Season's Greetings*



*Join Councilman Cameron Runyan for a  
Christmas Celebration*

*Tuesday, December 9  
5-7 p.m.*

*First Citizens Café  
1210 Main Street*

*For more information, please call 803-545-3061.*

# \$25 Pet Adoptions

*Home for the  
Holidays*

DECEMBER

15<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> | 2014

**\$25 PET ADOPTIONS**

ALSO

Want to give the gift of a new companion to a friend or family member? Gift Certificates can be purchased to put towards the adoption of a pet to ensure that the right pet gets into the right home!

Go To  
**Petfinder**  
To View Our  
Adoptable Pets



We Are Columbia

**Columbia Animal  
Services**

803-776-PETS (7387)  
127 Humane Lane

[www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)



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*Happy Holidays*



Celebrate the season with  
Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

*Annual Holiday Drop-In*

Wednesday, December 10  
5 - 8 p.m.

The Canal Room  
211 Gervais Street

For more information, please call 803-545-3061.

# Meetings/Closings

- The Columbia Art Center will be closed for a Christmas break from Monday, December 22-28, 2014. The center will reopen Monday, December 29, 2014, at 9 a.m.
- The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at 10 a.m.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at 10 a.m.

## Garbage Collection Schedule Changes

Garbage/Recycling pickup scheduled for Thursday, December 25, 2014 will be rescheduled for Wednesday, December 24, 2014. Normal schedule will resume on Friday, December 26, 2014.



# City Media

[www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)



TWC Ch.2 City Talk

**We Are Columbia**

**Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department**  
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